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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22859 7590 05/12/2010

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP
FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.
200 SOUTH SIXTH STREET, SUITE 4000
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER

COMINGS, DANIEL C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3744

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2010

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/588,387

08/04/2006

Mauro Zenobi

47966.25.1

7138

TITLE OF INVENTION: APPARATUS FOR RECEIVING, STORING AND PROVIDING BAGS OF BLOOD

| APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE DUE | PUBLICATION FEE DUE | PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | NO | \$1510 | \$300 | \$0 | \$1810 | 08/12/2010 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

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**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP
FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.
200 SOUTH SIXTH STREET, SUITE 4000
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402**

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

| |
|--------------------|
| (Depositor's name) |
| (Signature) |
| (Date) |

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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10/588,387 08/04/2006 Mauro Zenobi 47966.25.1 7138

TITLE OF INVENTION: APPARATUS FOR RECEIVING, STORING AND PROVIDING BAGS OF BLOOD

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nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$300 \$0 \$1810 08/12/2010

| EXAMINER | ART UNIT | CLASS-SUBCLASS |
|----------|----------|----------------|
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COMINGS, DANIEL C 3744 062-378000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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EXAMINER

COMINGS, DANIEL C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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DATE MAILED: 05/12/2010

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 537 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 537 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/588,387 | ZENOBİ, MAURO | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Daniel C. Comings | 3744 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 14 April 2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12-26.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>14 April 2010</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|--|---|

/Daniel C Comings/
Examiner, Art Unit 3744

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 14 April 2010 has been entered.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney John Parzych on 7 January 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 12, lines 21-22, the phrase --for reading cell identification means-- has been inserted between "said reading device" and "controlled by the processing system".

Reasons for Allowance

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The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record when considered as a whole, alone or in combination, neither anticipates nor renders obvious: an apparatus for storing and supplying bags of blood comprising a cabinet, a refrigerated space for containing the bags, each bag having a bag identification means, a magazine in the refrigerated space having a plurality of cells arranged in a plurality of superposed levels and each capable of containing one bag of blood, each cell further having a univocal cell code independent of its level and position and a cell identification means capable of containing and/or retrieving cell codes, at least one door to allow an operator to access the cells, a movement system capable of moving the cells, a cooling system capable of cooling the refrigerated space, a processing system controlling the cooling and movement systems, a reading device for reading bag identification means connected to the processing system and located at the walls of the cabinet, at least one reading device for reading cell identification means connected to the processing system and having at least one movement member controlled by the processing unit and a machine space for containing the movement system, the cooling system and the processing system (separated from the refrigerated space) as taught in instant independent claim 12.

German Publication No. DE 4418005 A1 to Scheuer teaches a cupboard for storing blood plasma units having a cabinet having binary codes so that units (bags)) can be rapidly identified and accessed, a number of motor driven turntables on which the units are arranged and an associated computer storing details about the number of

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free and occupied storage places. The cabinet is taught to have a hatch for accessing the units, a pipe for adding cooling air to the cabinet and a reader for reading the unit codes. Scheuer does not teach the computer controlling the cooling system the presence of cell identification means, the use of a number of reading devices for reading cell identification means, the reading devices having a number of movement members associated therewith and controlled by the computer or the use of a separate machine space for containing the computer, the turntable motor(s) and the cooling system as in instant claim 12.

Italian Publication No. IT UD 96A000073 to Angelantoni Industrie teaches a refrigerated storage device for containing bags of blood in individual cells each bag having identification data and each cell having an encoded location, there being an "acquiring data means" for acquiring data regarding the blood units, processing means coupled with the acquiring data means. Further it is suggested in fig. 3 but not explicitly taught in the English language abstract that there is also a door for accessing plural layers of the storage space, a movement system for moving the shelves, and a plurality of devices (shown at 36) for reading cell identification means. Angelantoni does not teach the processing system controlling the movement and cooling systems, the cell identification readers being supplied with movement members (Angelantoni teaches a plurality of such readers in various locations rather than readers movable between locations) and the processing, cooling and movement systems being located in a separate machine space as in instant claim 12.

US Patent No. 6,688,123 B2 to Felder et al. teaches an automated storage and retrieval apparatus for containing biological samples, the apparatus including a freezer compartment, a storage carousel having a plurality of layers each with a plurality of storage locations for containing storage containers which are identifiable by barcodes, a barcode reader for scanning the barcodes to identify storage containers as they are inserted into or removed from the device and an exterior door for depositing and withdrawing containers which are automatically moved to and from storage positions on the carousel. Felder does not teach the door providing access to the cells (but rather to a single automatically retrieved container) nor does Felder teach the storage locations having univocal codes or identification means and further does not teach the use of a reader for such identification means or such a reader being mounted on a movement member. Finally, Felder fails to teach the use of a separated machine compartment within the cabinet in which the movement system, cooling system and processing system are located as in instant claim 12.

US Patent No. 7,527,764 B2 to Angelantoni et al. teaches an automated system for conserving samples (not explicitly taught to be blood) in a temperature controlled enclosure, the system having a temperature control means and a set of moving disks each having a plurality of storage locations in which samples are placed for storage by "a Cartesian robotic system" equipped to deposit and retrieve such samples which may be an input/output drawer through which the a user may add and remove samples to be

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stored by the robotic system and a sample identifying means. Angelantoni does not teach the use of any means for identifying the individual storage locations and as such does not teach a reader for reading this identification or such a reader being controlled by the cabinet's control system as in instant claim 12. Furthermore Angelantoni does not teach the movement and cooling systems sharing a common controller.

US Patent No. 5,842,179 to Beavers et al. teaches a freezer having a plurality of drawers therein each comprising a plurality of locations in which a laboratory specimen may be stored. The freezer is taught to comprise a computerized inventory system for recording the location of each specimen stored therein. Beavers does not teach the system having any movement system for moving the drawers in which the specimens are placed, teaching the drawers to be constructed similarly to commonly known kitchen drawers. Beavers further fails to teach the use of any specimen or location identification means or reading means for such identification as taught in instant claim 12 but rather teaches an inventory system that merely records the location at which a specimen was manually placed as manually input by a user.

Japanese Publication No. 200-116767 to Hirota et al. teaches a system for blood collection having a compartment in which a platform (saucer 2) is disposed to support a bag of blood and to shake (move) the bag of blood as the platform swings and the bag is weighed. The system further comprises a means for reading data stored in a label on the bag of blood. Hirota does not teach the compartment having a cooling system or

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such a cooling system being controlled by the same processor as the saucer's movement. Furthermore, Hirota does not teach the presence of multiple storage cells and thus does not teach these cells being superposed on levels or having identification codes and further fails to teach the use of any reader for reading such cell identification means as in instant claim 12.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel C. Comings whose telephone number is 571-270-7385. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frantz Jules or Cheryl Tyler can be reached on 571-272-6681 or 571-272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daniel C Comings/
Examiner, Art Unit 3744
April 20, 2010

/Frantz F. Jules/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3744